

What is claimed is:

1. A contactor comprising
 - a main housing (11; 51) including a lower housing part (12) and an upper housing part (13; 53); the lower housing part (12) at least partially accommodating an electromagnetic operating mechanism (26), and the upper housing part (13; 53) accommodating main contacts and main terminals (18; 58), and
 - a connection module (30; 70) which contains control terminals (40; 80) connectable to the solenoid coil (28; 68) of the electromagnetic operating mechanism (26), and whose control terminal sides (31; 71), which are defined by the control terminal openings (32; 72) to the control terminals (40; 80), extend parallel to the main terminal sides (20; 60) of the upper housing part (11; 51), which are defined by the main terminal openings (22; 62) to the main terminals (18; 58), said connection module further having operating openings (33; 73) to the control terminals (40; 80), said operating openings being able to be accessed by tools in a direction perpendicular to the housing front (15; 55),
 wherein
 - on a housing side (16; 56) extending perpendicular to both the housing front (15; 55) and the main terminal sides (20; 60), the upper housing part (13; 53) is set back, forming a step recess (19; 59),
 - the connection module (30; 70) is capable of being mounted on upper housing part (13; 53), in which condition the connection module at least partially fills the step recess (19; 59), and the control terminals (40; 80) are located in front of the plane of the main terminals (18; 58), as viewed in the direction of the housing front (15; 55),
 - connecting conductors (41; 81) protruding from the connection module (30; 70) into main housing (11; 51) connect the control terminals (40; 80) to control sockets (45; 85) which are located in the lower housing part (12) and connected to the solenoid coil (28; 68).

2. The contactor as recited in the preceding claim,
 - wherein the connection module (30; 70) has a cover element (35; 75) in which the front operating openings (33; 73) are formed, and further has a base element (34; 74) from which the connecting conductors (41; 81) protrude at the rear; and
 - the base element (34; 74) and the cover element (35; 75) are capable of being joined together, securing in position the control terminals (40; 80) located therebetween.

3. The contactor as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the cover element (35; 75) is capable of being snap-fitted to the base element (34; 74).
4. The contactor as recited in one of Claims 2 and 3, wherein the control terminal openings (32; 72) are left open between the joined-together cover element (35; 75) and base element (34; 74).
5. The contactor as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the control terminals (40) are integrally formed in one piece with the bar-shaped connecting conductors (41).
6. The contactor as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the control terminals (80) merge into jaw-like blade sockets (86) for receiving the control-terminal side conductor ends (87) of the bar-shaped connecting conductors (81).
7. The contactor as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the control terminals (40; 80) have extensions (42; 82) extending therefrom and having socket-like openings (43; 83) which are in alignment with insertion openings (44; 84) which are formed in the cover element (35; 75) on the front and are intended for an add-on module (90) to be placed onto connection module (30; 70).